

MINUTES

HEALTHIER MONTANA TASK FORCE MEETING

Great Northern Hotel
835 No. Great Blvd. Helena, Montana
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Members Present:

Karin Billings, Office of Public Instruction
Velva Doore, Fort Belknap Tribal Health Department
Stanlee Dull, Consumer
Lucy K. Ednie, Montana Nurses Association
Caitlin Hall, Indian Health Service/Crow Service Unit
Kristin Juliar, Area Health Education Center and Office of Rural Health
Scott Malloy, Gallatin Mental Health Center
Bob Marsalli, Primary Care Association
Lenore Myers, Rocky Boy's Reservation, Chippewa and Cree Tribes
Melanie Reynolds, Lewis and Clark City-County Health Department
Jane Smilie, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Tara Veazey, Governor's Office
Clay Vincent, Hill County Sanitarian
Tony Ward, University of Montana, Center for Environmental Health Services
Lora Wier, Teton County Health Department

Members Excused:

Roman M. Hendrickson, Ruby Valley Medical Clinic

Staff and Visitors Present:

Carol Ballew, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Zoe Barnard, DPHHS, Developmental Services Division
Natalie Claiborne, Montana Office of Rural Health
Lindsey Krywaruchka, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Erin McGowan Fincham Association of Montana Public Health Officials
Todd Harwell, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Steven Helgersen, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Denise Higgins, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Tia Hunter, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Jim Murphy DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Richard Oppen, DPHHS, Director
Kerry Pride, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Karl Rosston, DPHHS, Addictive and Mental Disorders Division
Lisa Sather, Mountain-Pacific Quality Health
Joan Miles, DPHHS, Public Health and Safety Division
Vicki Turner, DPHHS, Prevention Resource Center
Janet Whitmoyer, Mountain Pacific Quality Health

Director's Welcome – Director Richard Opper

Director Opper welcomed members of the task force and thanked them for their service. He stated that the goals are to push to improve Montanans health and to improve the health of the people working for DPHHS.

Introduction

Everyone introduced themselves.

Governor's Welcome – Governor Steve Bullock

Governor Bullock expressed his appreciation of the task force members and thanked them for their service. He emphasized that the task force can change health outcomes.

Overview - Jane Smilie

State, local, and tribal health departments are preparing to apply for national accreditation. There are pre-requisites for accreditation, a health assessment and a health improvement plan. The State of the State's Health packet is a health assessment on the citizens of Montana. The packet entitled Big Sky. New Horizons. A Healthier Montana is our health improvement plan. Our plan is comprehensive. More than 300 individuals representing 130 organizations contributed to the plan. This is an important step in public health. Two standards are being used. Standard 1.1: Participate in or conduct a collaborative process resulting in a comprehensive community health assessment. Standard 5.2: Conduct a comprehensive planning process resulting in tribal/state/community health improvement plan. The plan has the support of the governor, the governor's staff, and the director. This plan cannot be carried out only by the state health department, like past plans. It also needs local support. The task force is needed to help navigate and get boots on the ground.

Chronic Disease – Todd Harwell

Todd Harwell presented the section on preventing, identifying, and managing chronic diseases.

Mothers, Infants, and Children – Denise Higgins

Denise Higgins presented the section on promoting the health of mother, infants, and children.

Communicable Disease – Jim Murphy

Jim Murphy presented the section on preventing, identifying, and controlling communicable disease

Lunch Break

Public Comment

Erin McGowan Fincham, Smith and McGowan Inc., spoke about the importance of advocacy at the community level or at a legislative session. She offered to give advice in the advocacy realm.

Injuries and Environmental Health – Carol Ballew

Carol Ballew presented the section on preventing injuries and exposures to environmental hazards

Mental Health and Substance Abuse – Deb Matteucci

Deb Matteucci presented the section on improving mental health and reducing substance abuse.

Public Health and Health Care System – Lindsey Krywaruchka

Lindsey Krywaruchka presented the section on strengthening the public health and health care system.

Public Comment

Mountain-Pacific Quality Health sees a lot of data and we are excited about the plan. – Lisa Sather

Some questions to think about. What kinds of support do you want? What other partners can we contact for support? Should future meetings take place in other locations around the state? What should we take on? – Joan Miles

Q: Will there be a Listserv?

A: Yes

Q: Did you know that schools can now have epi pens available (legislative decision)?